

Serial No. 09/814,663

Attorney Docket No. LX00083

29. (New) The keypad of claim 28, wherein the plurality of keys includes keys "1" through "9", "0", "\*" and "#".

30. (New) The keypad of claim 28, wherein all keys representing syllable initial symbols are grouped separate from all keys representing syllable semi-initial symbols.

31. (New) The keypad of claim 30, wherein one key of the plurality of keys is solely designated for semi-initial symbols.

32. (New) The keypad of claim 28, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of keys represents syllable final symbols.

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33. (New) A keypad layout for a hand-held electronic device comprising:  
a plurality of nine keys arranged in three rows by three columns and configured for data entry of a Romanized Chinese phonetic alphabet, each key representing two syllable initial symbols of the Romanized Chinese phonetic alphabet.

34. (New) The keypad of claim 33, further comprising a key representing two syllable initial symbols of the Romanized Chinese phonetic alphabet and a key representing one syllable initial symbol of the Romanized Chinese phonetic alphabet.

35. (New) The keypad of claim 33, further comprising a key representing at least one syllable semi-initial symbol and at least one independent symbol.

36. (New) The keypad of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of keys represents syllable final symbols.

37. (New) The keypad of claim 33, wherein the plurality of nine keys represent keys "1" through "9".

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38. (New) A keypad for a hand-held electronic device for data entry of a Romanized Chinese phonetic alphabet, the keypad comprising:

a first set of keys representing two syllable initial symbols and one syllable final symbol;

a second set of keys representing two syllable initial symbols and no syllable final symbols; and

a third set of keys representing less than two syllable initial symbols and no syllable final symbols.

39. (New) The keypad of claim 38, wherein the first set of keys represents at least half of the keys of the keypad.

40. (New) The keypad of claim 38, wherein the third set of keys represents at least one key that includes at least one syllable semi-initial symbol.

41. (New) The keypad of claim 38, wherein the third set of keys represents at least one key that includes at least one independent symbol.

42. (New) The keypad of claim 38, wherein the third set of keys represents at least one key that includes one syllable initial symbol and no syllable final symbols.

43. (New) The keypad of claim 38, further comprising a fourth set of keys representing at least one key that includes two syllable final symbols.